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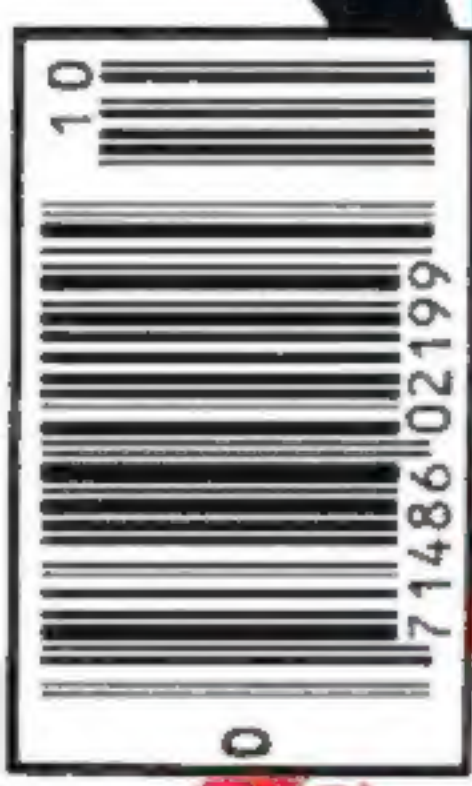
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



# PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



JR. JR. + F. GIACOIA



WITH THIS GUN..



STAN LEE PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

FOR THE WEB-SLINGING WONDER KNOWN AS SPIDER-MAN, THIS STORY BEGINS ONE HOT SUMMER NIGHT IN NEW YORK'S SPANISH HARLEM.



WELL, WELL, WELL--  
WHAT HAVE WE  
HERE? A COUPLE OF  
LATE-NIGHT SHOPPERS  
OUT SCOUTING FOR  
INSTANT TORTILLA  
MIX?

I THOUGHT  
YOU SAID YOU  
COULD PICK THE  
LOCK, MAN?!

LAY OFF,  
WILLYA?  
IT'S  
COMIN'!

**BILL MANTLO & RICK LEONARDI**  
SCRIPTER\* PENCILER  
**MOONEY \* ROSEN \* WEIN**  
INKER LETTERS COLORS  
**DEFALCO \* SHOOTER**  
EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

\*ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE BY  
BY TOM DEFALCO.



THE FAINT METALLIC SOUND OF A SNAPPING LATCHSPRING REACHES SPIDER-MAN'S EARS.

THEY'RE IN! I GOT HERE TOO LATE TO PREVENT THEM FROM BREAKING AND ENTERING!

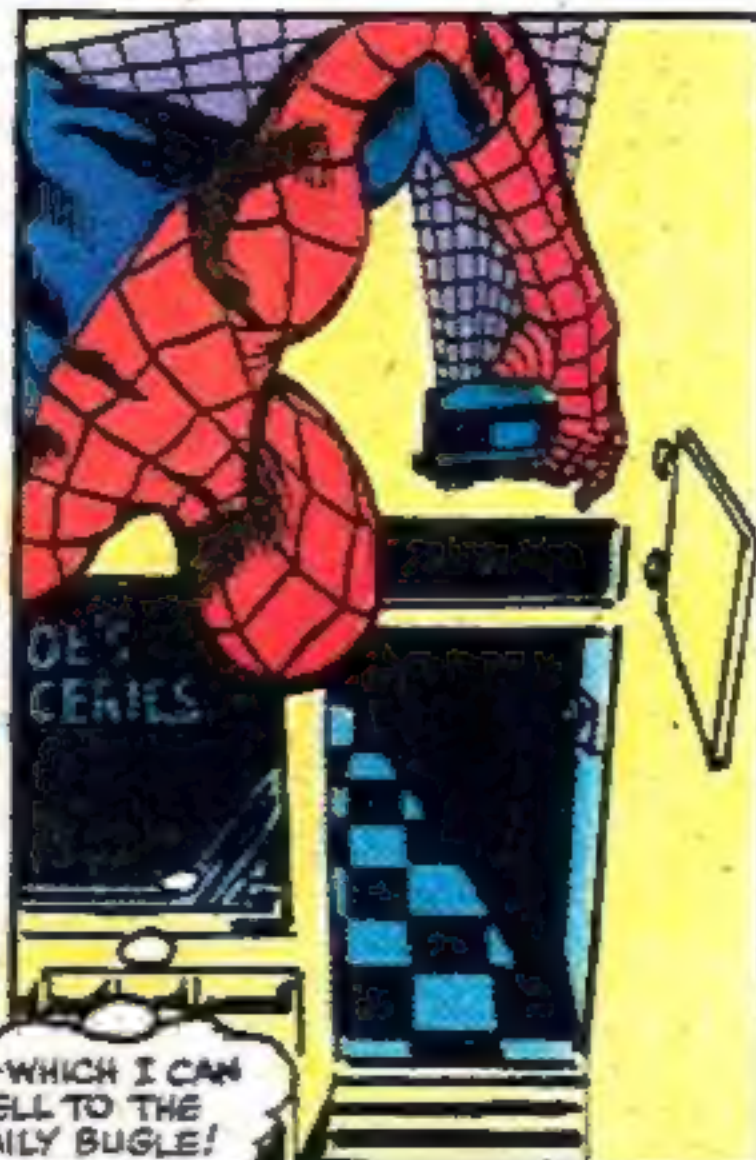


OH, WELL, THIS IS NO BRINKS JOB--



--BUT MAYBE I CAN SNAP A FEW ACTION PIX--

--WHICH I CAN SELL TO THE DAILY BUGLE!



INSIDE THE STORE...

MOE'S GROCERIES

CRIPES! REGISTER'S EMPTY!

MAYBE THERE'S A SAFE--?



SUDDENLY, A CRIMSON CIRCLE OF LIGHT STABS DOWN FROM THE CEILING!

THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE YOU CAN HIDE FROM THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN... NOO-NOO-NA-NA!

PACO, WE'RE SPOTTED! BUT WHO IN BLAZES--??

HOW MUCH MORE OF AN INTRODUCTION DO YA NEED? SHOOT! SHOOT!!

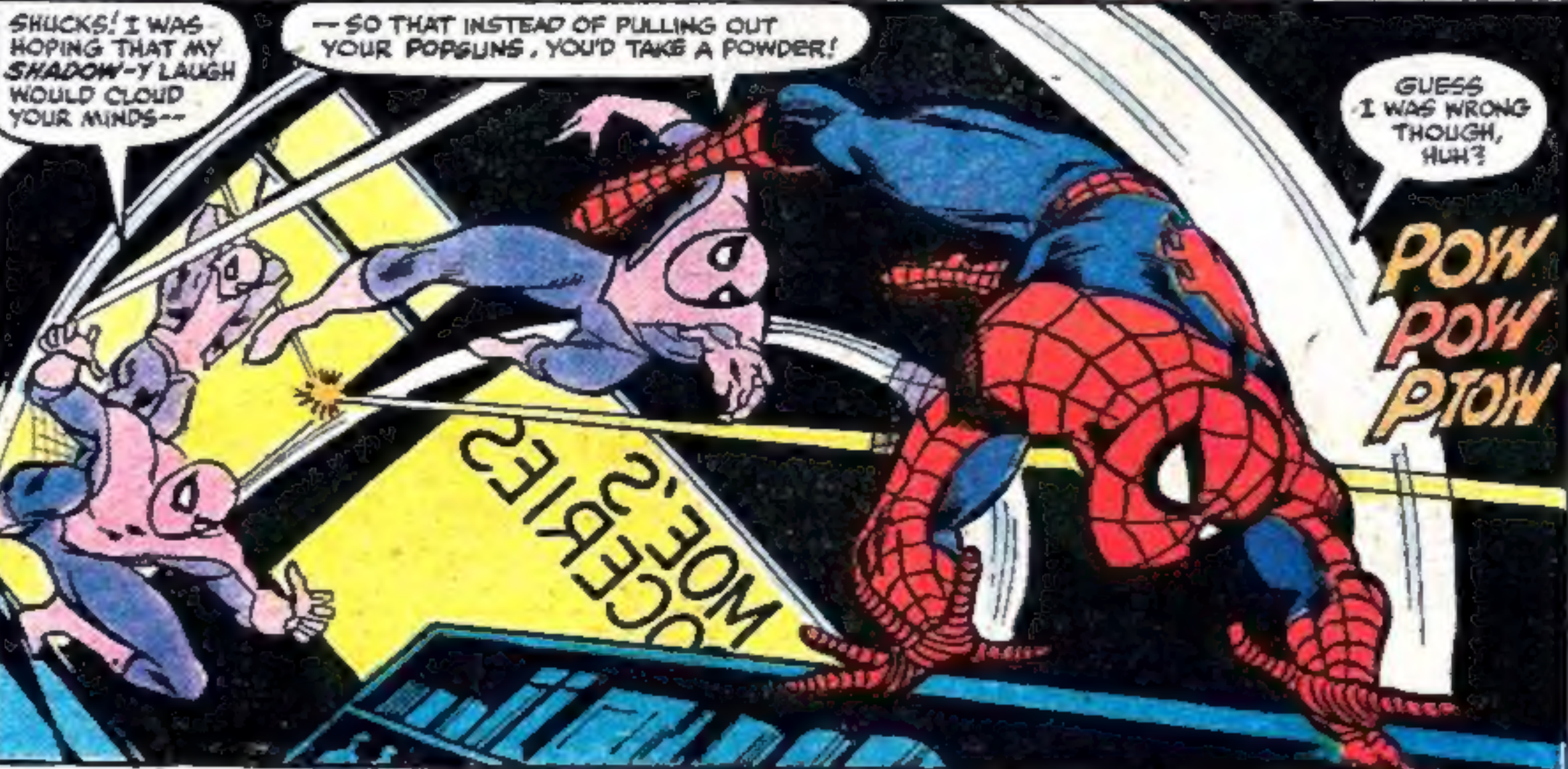


SHUCKS! I WAS HOPING THAT MY SHADOW-Y LAUGH WOULD CLOUD YOUR MINDS--

--SO THAT INSTEAD OF PULLING OUT YOUR PORSUNS, YOU'D TAKE A POWDER!

GUESS I WAS WRONG THOUGH, HUH?

POW  
POW  
PTOW













I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE SO UPSET ABOUT, PARKER! AN OLD MAN SHOT A BURGLAR WHO WAS TRYING TO ROB HIS STORE! SO WHAT?

THE BURGLAR WAS A KID, LANCE.

THE "KID" WAS ARMED!

BOTH THE BOY AND THE STORE OWNER WERE ARMED, LANCE-- THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

PERHAPS, IF NEITHER HAD POSSESSED A HANDGUN, THE BOY WOULD NEVER HAVE SUMMONED UP THE COURAGE TO COMMIT THE CRIME IN THE FIRST PLACE--

--AND THE STORE OWNER MIGHT HAVE PHONED FOR THE POLICE INSTEAD OF SHOOTING.

THOSE ARE PRETTY BIG "IF'S", ROBBIE!

THE STORE OWNER WAS DEFENDING HIS PROPERTY! ARE YOU SAYING THAT NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO OWN HANDGUNS?

NO-- I CAN CONDONE OWNERSHIP BY THE POLICE, THE MILITARY, AND PISTOL CLUBS WHERE THE GUNS ARE NEVER ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE PROPERTY.

BUT ACCORDING TO SOME STATISTICS I'VE JUST READ, HANDGUNS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 25,000 FATALITIES IN 1980...

OVER 300,000 VIOLENT CRIMES WERE PERPETRATED WITH HANDGUNS IN THAT YEAR ALONE.

ALL THE MORE REASON FOR PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO PURCHASE AND OWN A HANDGUN-- TO PROTECT THEMSELVES!

THAT'S THE ARGUMENT OF THE PRO-HANDGUN LOBBY, LANCE.

BUT A HANDGUN PURCHASED FOR "PROTECTION" IS MORE LIKELY TO ACCIDENTALLY KILL YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY THAN IT IS TO KILL A BURGLAR.

BUT, ROBBIE, EVEN I KNOW THAT MOST HOMICIDES OCCUR AMONG FAMILY AND FRIENDS... WHETHER A HANDGUN IS USED OR NOT!

LET'S NOT FORGET THE CHILDREN...

CHILDREN, ROBBIE?









JUST THEN...

ROBBIE! WE JUST GOT A TIP FROM THE POLICE DESK THAT AN ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF 'SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS' IS BEING SMUGGLED INTO THE CITY BY THE MOB TONIGHT!



LIKE LANCE SAID, THE WRONG PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS FIND SOME WAY TO GET THEIR HANDS ON GUNS.

ALL RIGHT, JOE-- THANKS. I'LL GET SOMEONE ON IT. PARKER, IT WAS YOUR PHOTO THAT STARTED THIS 'GUN CONTROL' BALL ROLLING. BEN URICH WILL WRITE THE STORY, AND YOU CAN DO THE PHOTOS.

PARKER?



HE JUST BOLTED OUT OF HERE LIKE HE HAD THE DEVIL ON HIS TAIL, ROBBIE! I THINK HE'S ACCEPTED THE ASSIGNMENT!

HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT TONIGHT-- I HOPE IT'S NOT MORE THAN HE CAN HANDLE.

PETER PARKER MIGHT BE MY TOP COMPETITOR FOR ACTION PIX HERE AT THE BUGLE, ROBBIE--

--BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA HEAR LANCE BANNON DENY THAT THE GUYS A PRO! HE CAN HANDLE IT!



LANCE BANNON HAS NO IDEA EXACTLY HOW MUCH HIS FELLOW PHOTOJOURNALIST HAS HAD TO HANDLE IN HIS LIFETIME...

...BOTH AS PETER PARKER AND AS THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN!

ACCORDING TO THE GUYS AT THE CITY DESK-- THE COPS KNOW THAT THE GUNS ARE COMING IN TONIGHT-- BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHEN OR WHERE!



S'FUNNY, I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT 'GUN CONTROL' BEFORE, BUT I DO KNOW THAT ILLEGAL GUNS CAUSE WAY TOO MANY DEATHS!

IF I CAN STOP TONIGHT'S SHIPMENT FROM REACHING THE STREETS, MAYBE SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE WILL REMAIN A SURVIVOR--

--INSTEAD OF ENDING UP A STATISTIC!

BUT, EVEN AS THE RED-AND-BLUE GARBED ADVENTURER SWINGS HIGH OVER THE CITY'S STREETS, SOMEPLACE, SOMEWHERE, A SLEEP-DAZED FATHER THINKS HIS HOUSE IS BEING BURGLARIZED--

I DON'T HAVE MY FINGER ON THE PULSE OF THE UNDER-WORLD THE WAY SOME HEROES DO...

STILL, I BET I CAN SCARE SOME INFO OUT OF THIS WELL-KNOWN NUMBERS RUNNER!

...USING HIS ILLEGALLY PURCHASED HANDGUN, HE ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTS HIS SON WHO HAS ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY FROM COLLEGE.

WHAT THE--?!





SPIDER-MAN!

YOU KNOW ME?  
GOOD, THAT  
MEANS I DON'T  
HAVE TO SHOW  
MY AMERICAN  
EXPRESS  
CARD.



WH-WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT?

ANYTHING  
YOU'VE HEARD  
ABOUT A  
SHIPMENT OF  
"SATURDAY  
NIGHT  
SPECIALS"  
COMING INTO  
TOWN TO-  
NIGHT.



A-AND  
IF I CAN'T  
REMEMBER  
WHAT I'VE  
HEARD?



YOU GET  
DROPPED.

YEOW!

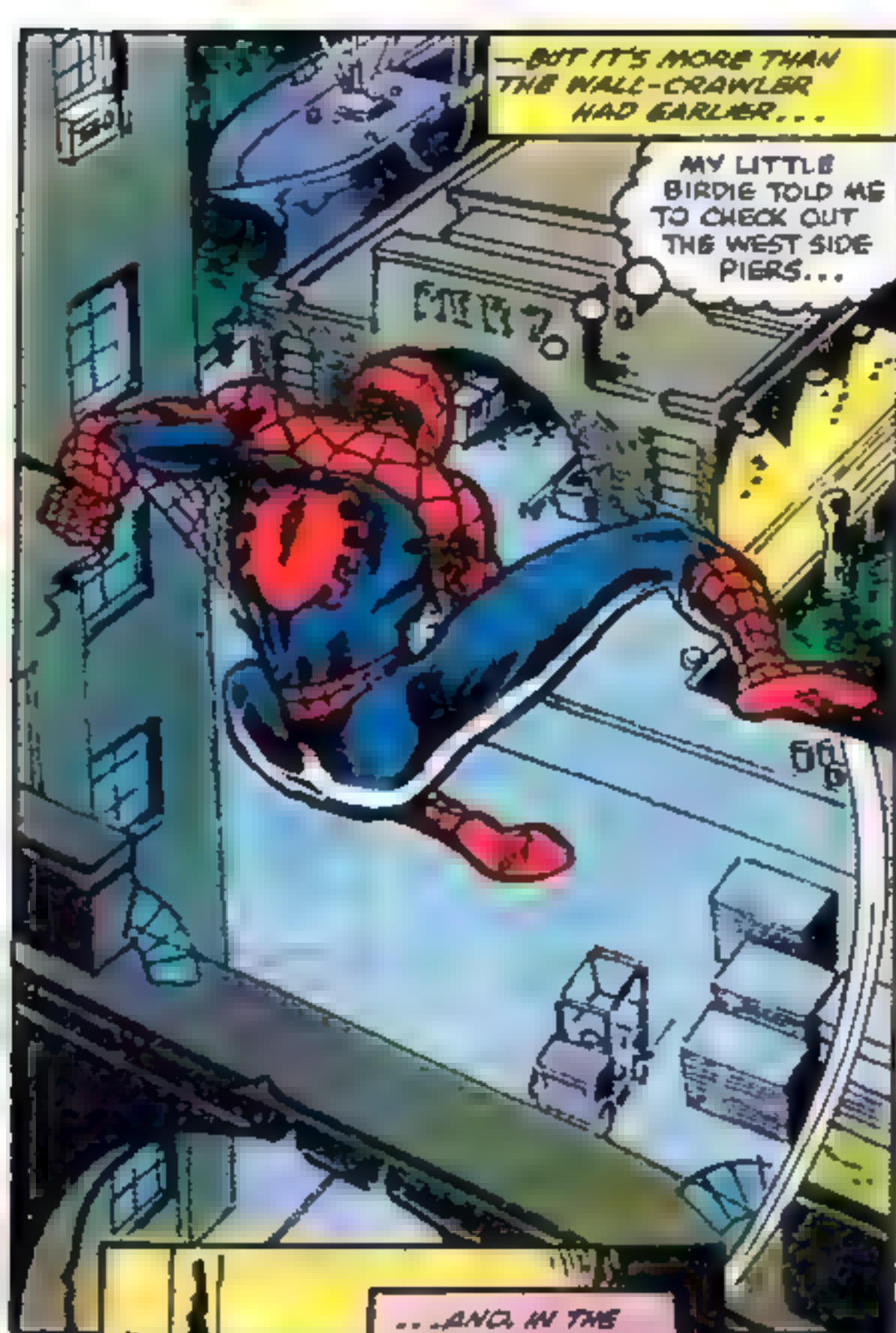


OKAY,  
I HEARD  
SOMETHIN'!

I'M  
LISTENING.

WHAT THE  
NUMBERS  
RUNNER KNOWS  
ISN'T MUCH,  
AND ISN'T  
GOOD--





—BUT IT'S MORE THAN  
THE WALL-CRAWLER  
HAD EARLIER...

MY LITTLE  
BIRDIE TOLD ME  
TO CHECK OUT  
THE WEST SIDE  
PIERS...



...A PLACE  
CALLED  
JOSIE'S  
BAR &  
GRILL.

IT HAS TAKEN SPIDER-MAN TIME TO SWING FROM  
ONE SIDE OF TOWN TO THE OTHER...



...AND, IN THE  
INTERIM, SOME-  
PLACE, SOMEWHERE,  
A HANDGUN HAS  
CLAIMED TWO  
MORE LIVES.



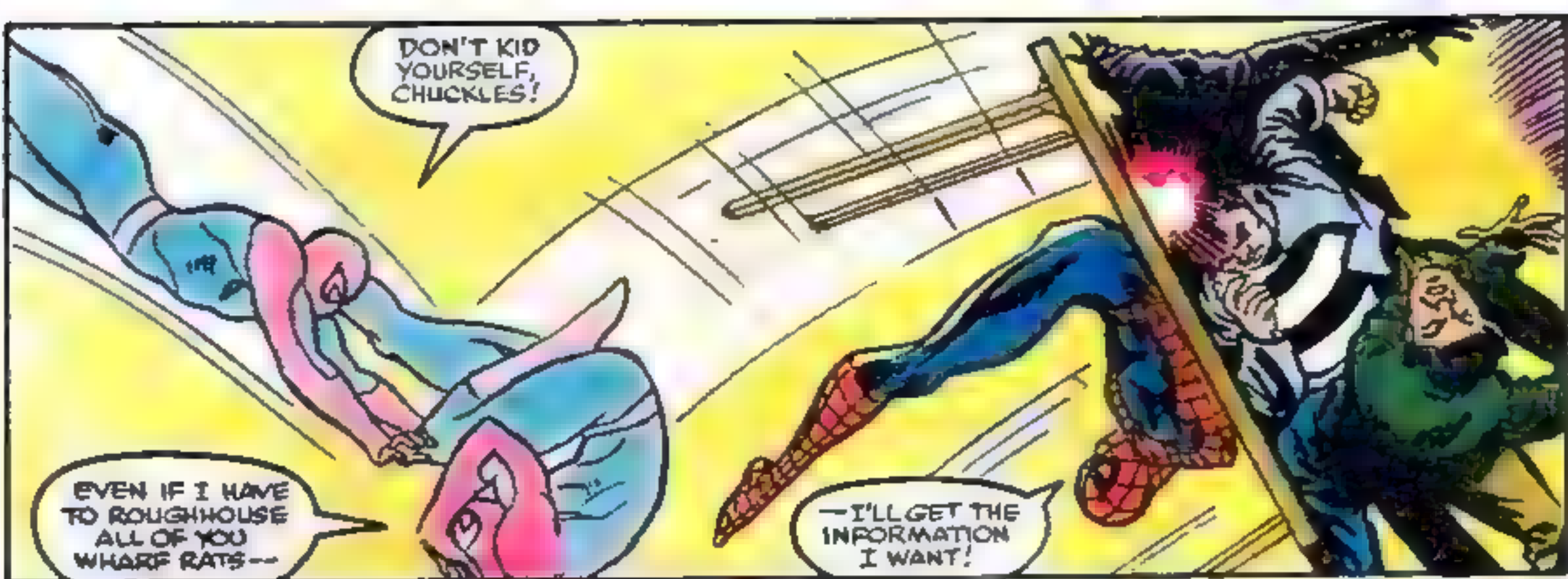
INSIDE JOSIE'S...

...SO I  
HEAR THERE'S  
GOOD MONEY  
TO BE MADE  
UNLOADING A  
SPECIAL ORDER  
AT THE BROOK-  
LYN DOCKS  
TONIGHT.









DON'T KID YOURSELF, CHUCKLES!

EVEN IF I HAVE TO ROUGHHOUSE ALL OF YOU WHARF RATS---

I'LL GET THE INFORMATION I WANT!



I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYBODY MOVE SO FAST!

I AMN'T STAYING AROUND TO CLOCK HIM!



OH YES--

THUMP THUMP

—YOU ARE!



HE'S WEBBED THE EXITS!

CAN'T PUSH THROUGH!



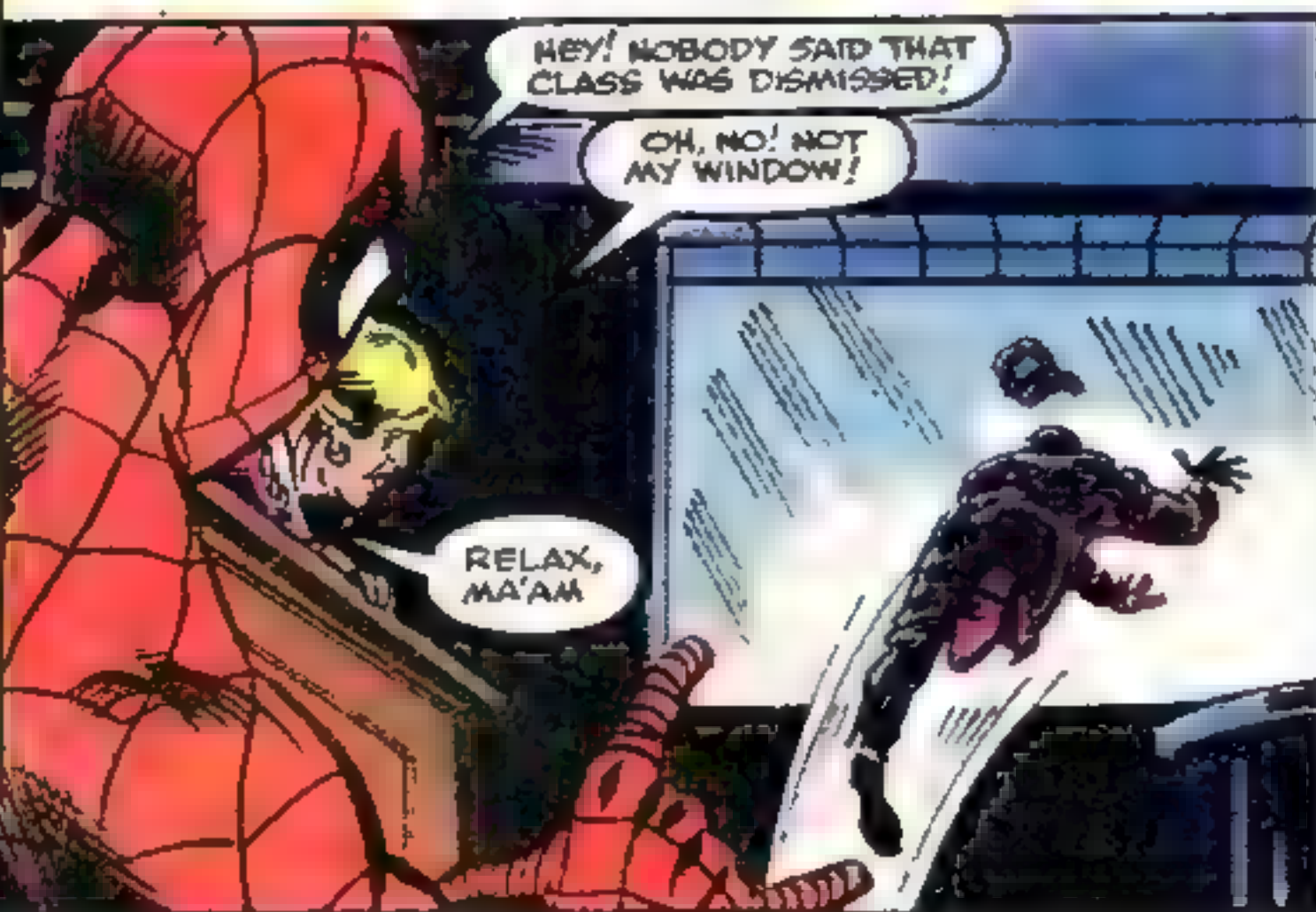
MY WEBBING WILL DISSOLVE...IN TIME

MEANWHILE LET'S CONTINUE OUR CAPTIVATING CONVERSATION.

I ALREADY KNOW WHAT AND WHERE—YOU JOKERS JUST HAVE TO TELL ME WHEN!



SOMEWHERE, SOMEPLACE, THE BRIDGEMEN ARE SURPRISED BY A BURGLAR. THEY ARE DEFENSELESS. HE IS NOT.

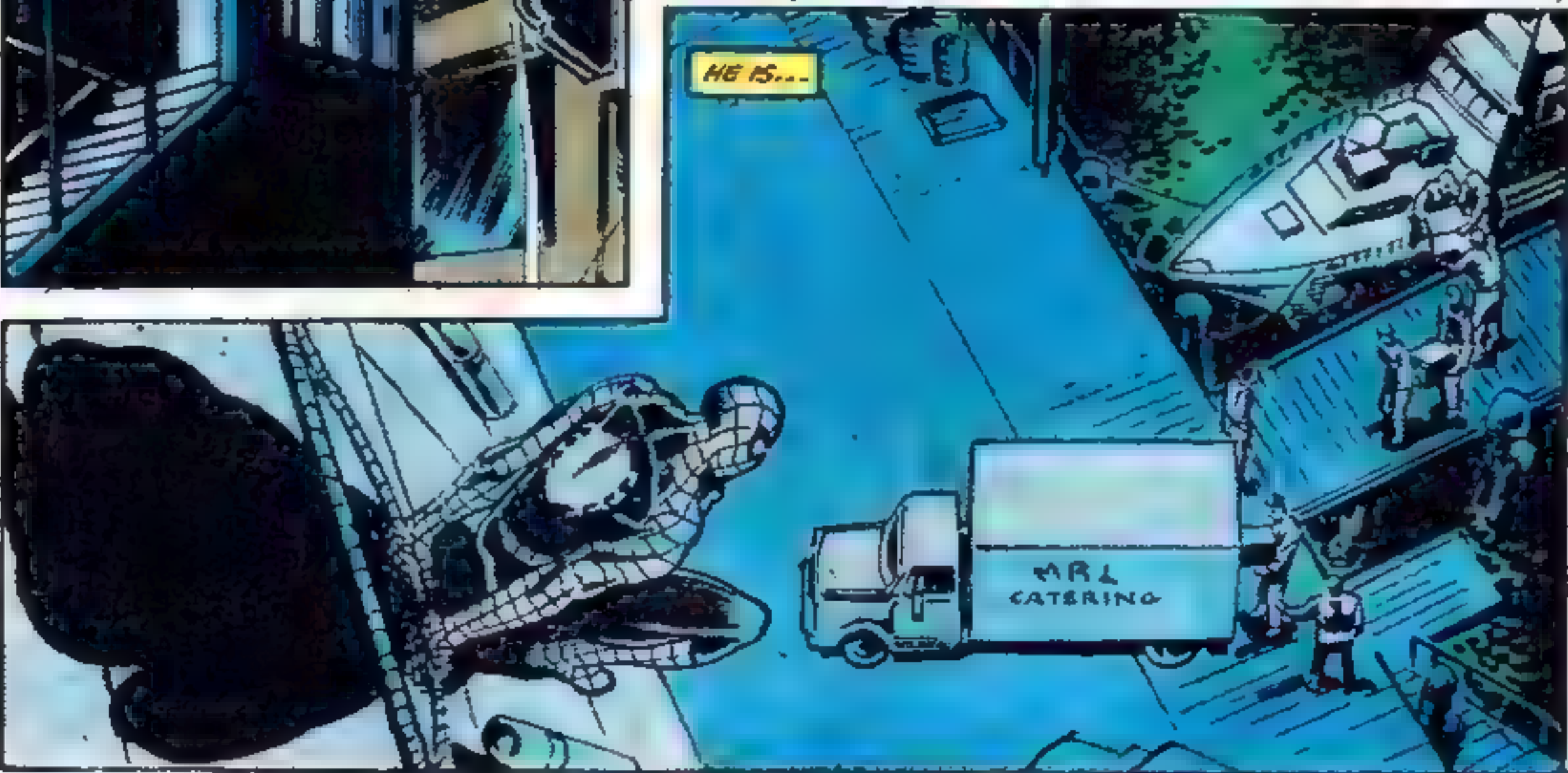
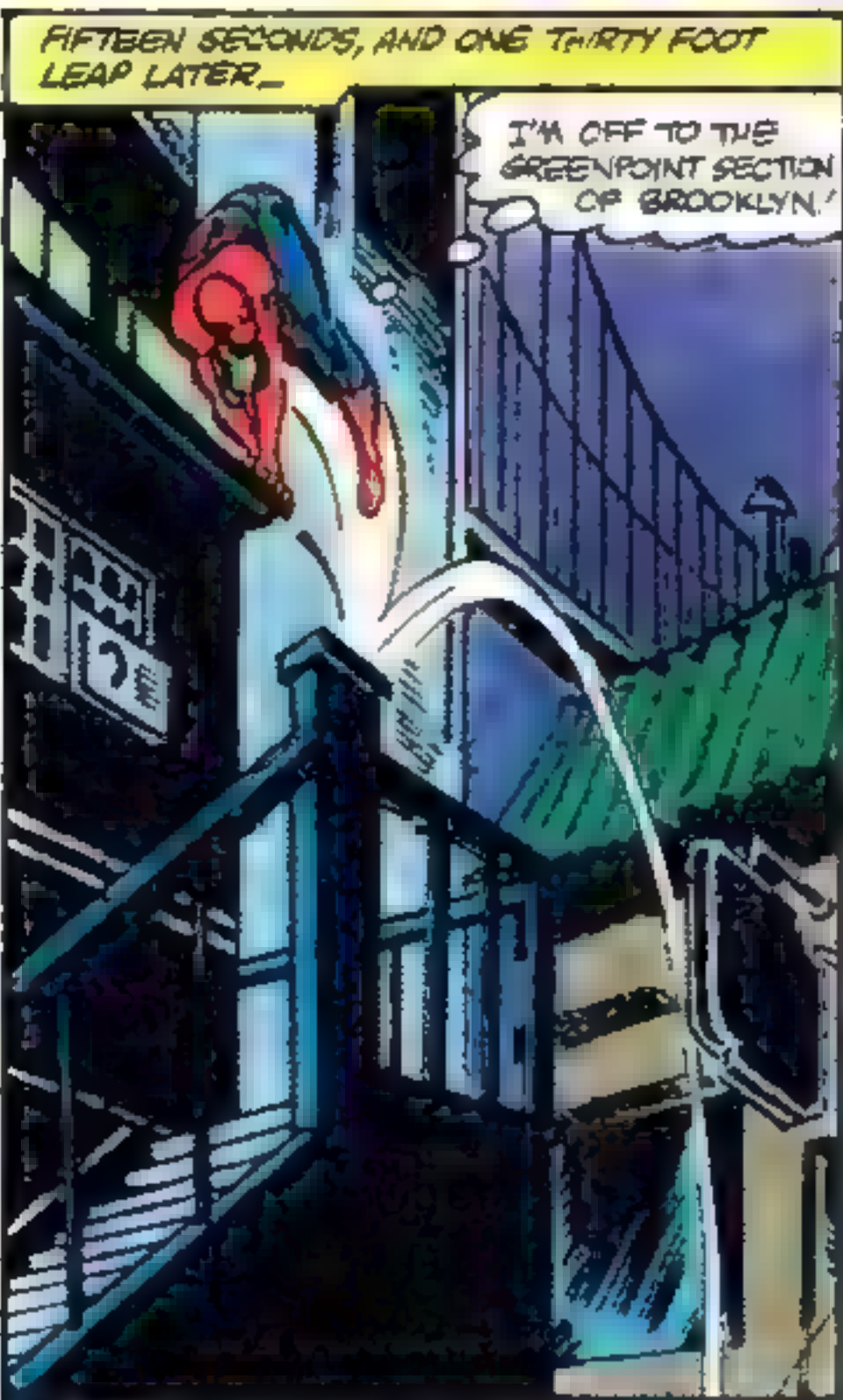
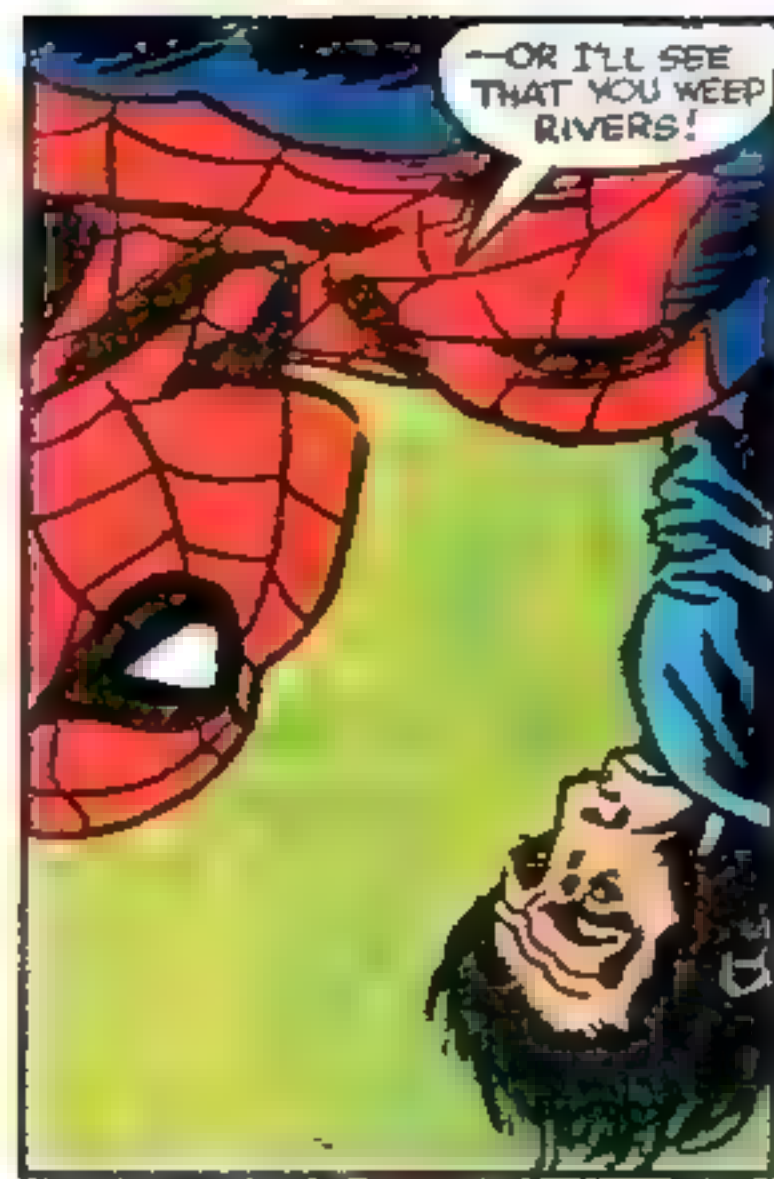


HEY! NOBODY SAID THAT CLASS WAS DISMISSED!

OH, NO! NOT MY WINDOW!

RELAX, MA'AM







THOSE ARE THE  
SMUGGLERS, ALL  
RIGHT! I'LL JUST  
WEB MY BELT-  
CAMERA IN PLACE.  
AND...

WHEEOO  
WHEEOO

SIRENS?

HAVING SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED ITS OWN INVESTIGATIVE  
TECHNIQUES, THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
HAS OBTAINED THE SAME INFORMATION AS SPIDER-MAN...

WHEEOO  
WHEEOO  
WHEEOO

STAND WHERE  
YOU ARE! PLACE  
YOUR HANDS OVER  
YOUR HEADS!

THE  
COGS!

IT'S 15-TO-  
20 IF WE'RE  
CAUGHT  
WITH THIS  
STUFF!

THEN, WE  
DON'T GET  
CAUGHT!

BUGGE

SKREEE

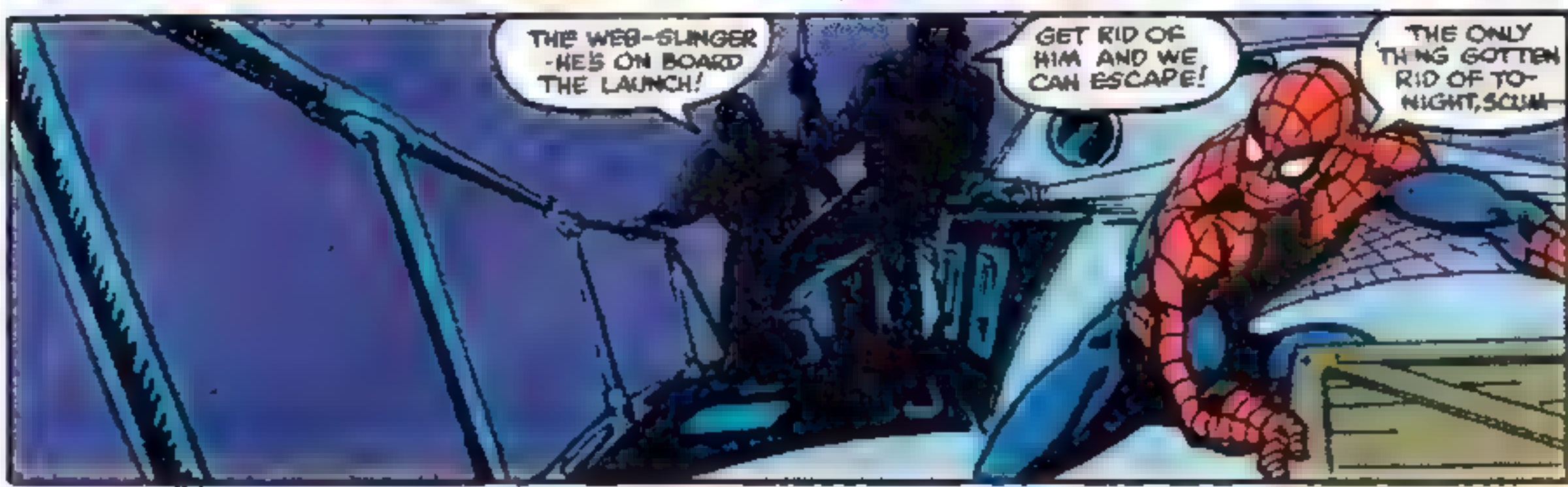
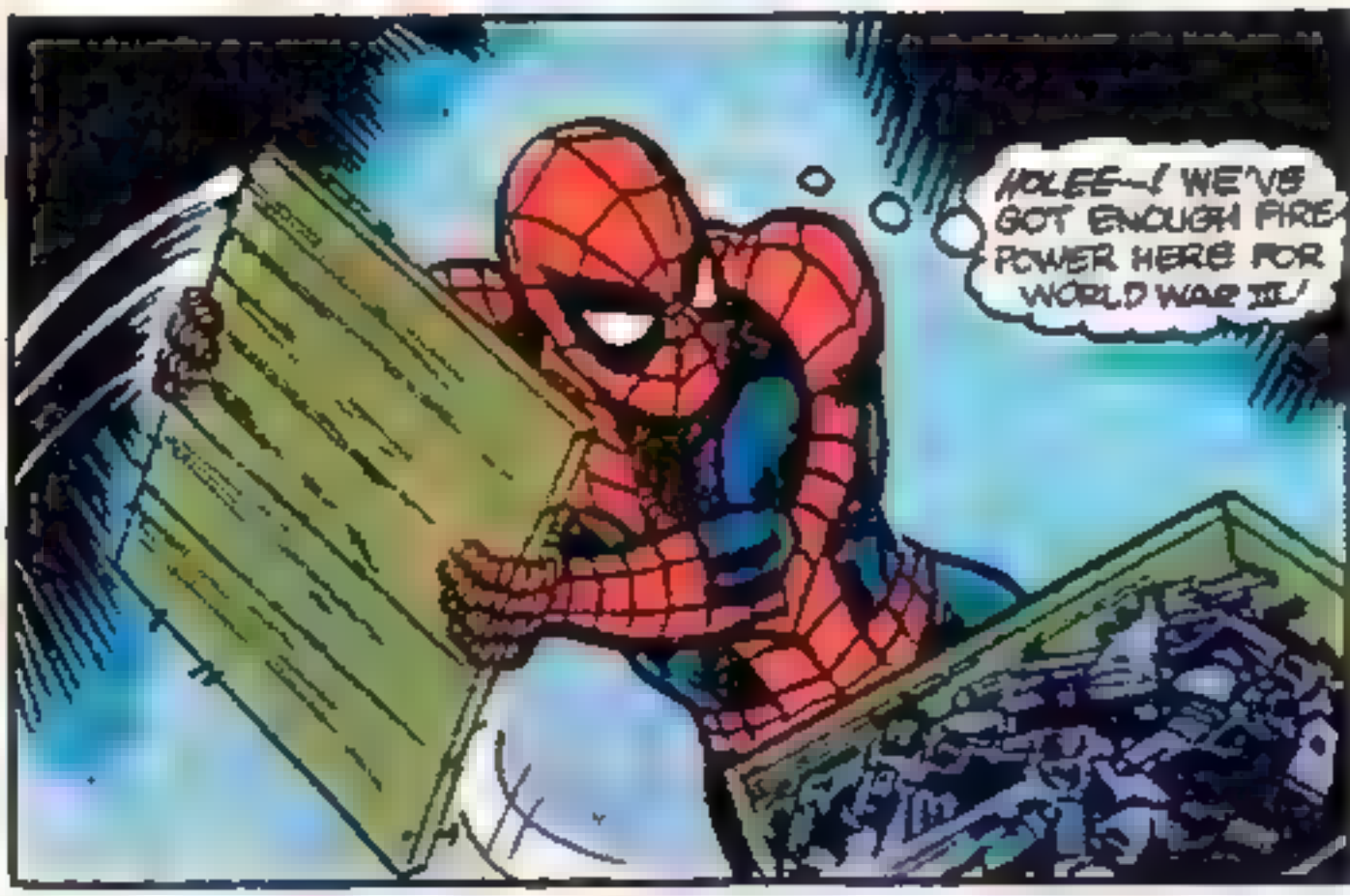
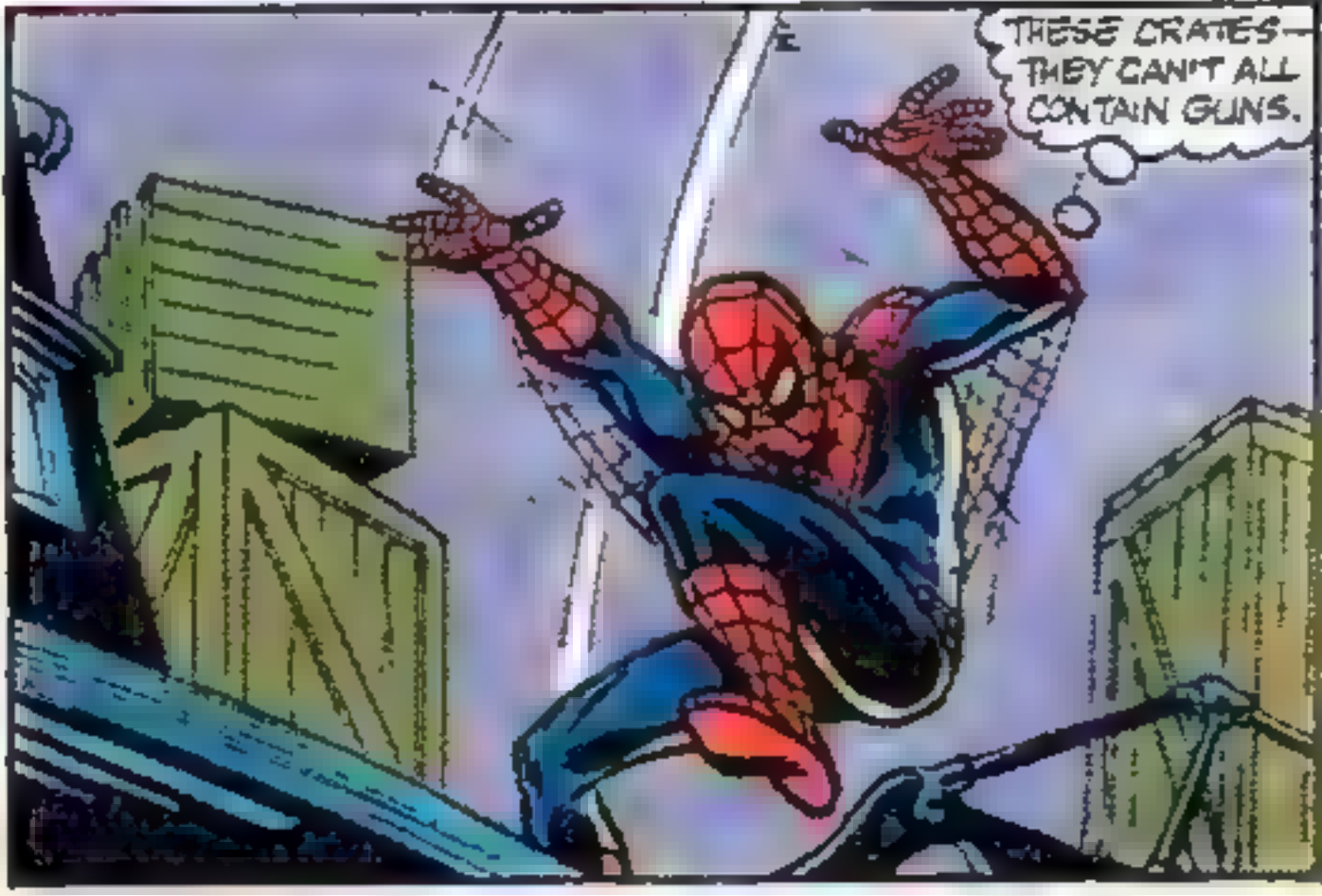
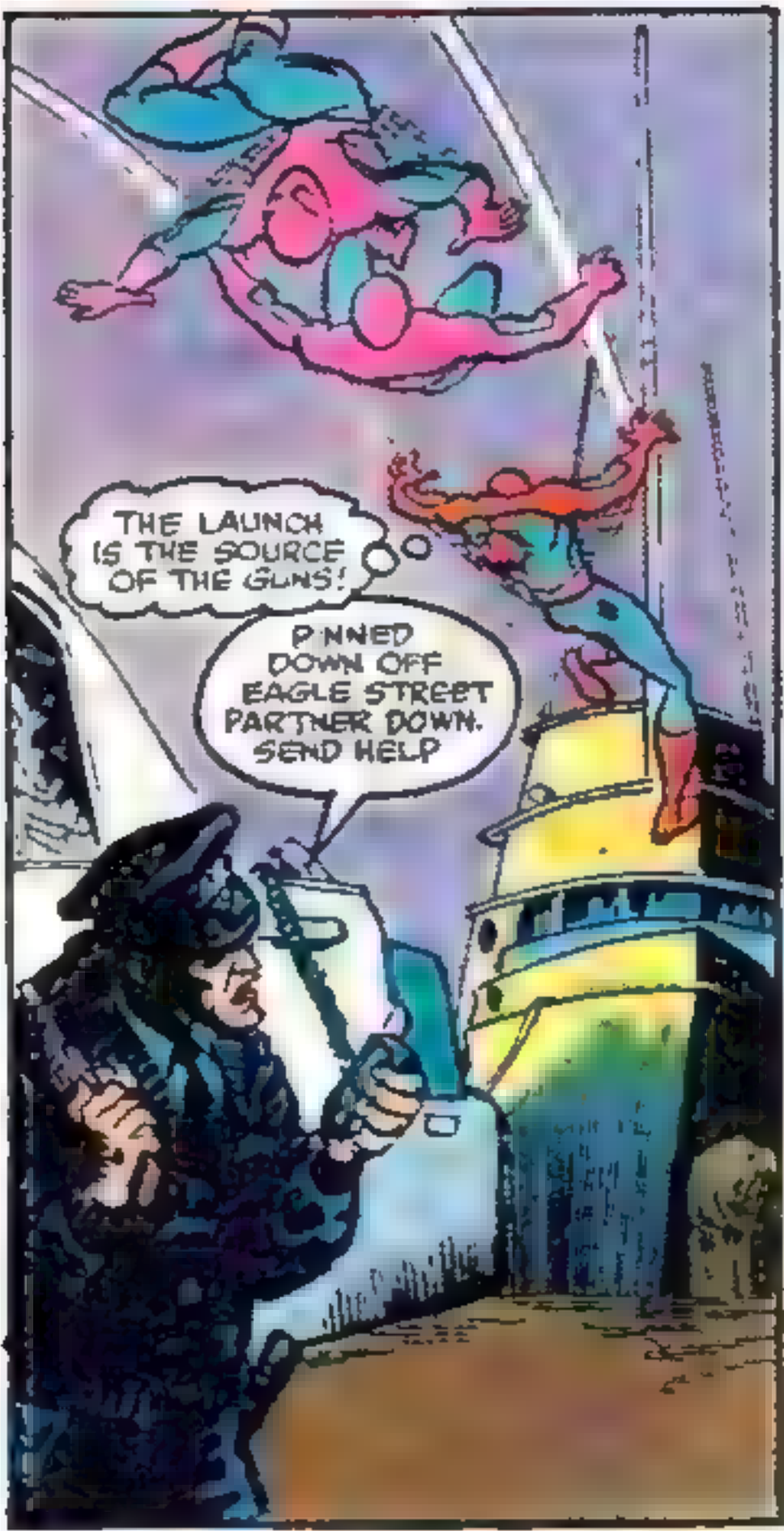
THOSE  
LOUSY--!  
THEY  
KILLED  
O'ROURKE!

POW  
PLOW  
PTOW

WE  
MISSED  
ONE--BUT  
WE GOT HIM  
PINNED  
DOWN!

KEEP  
LOADING  
THAT  
TRUCK!

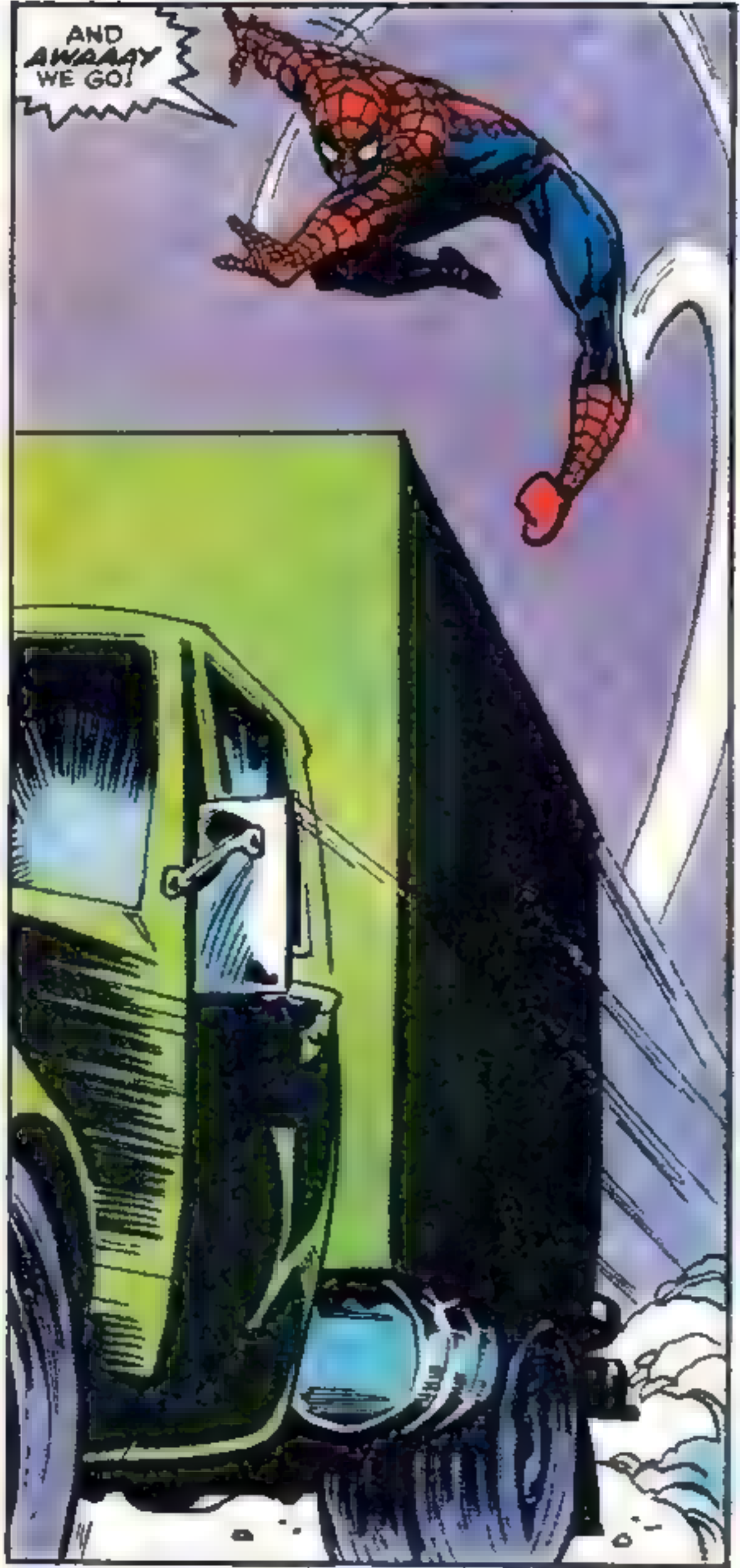
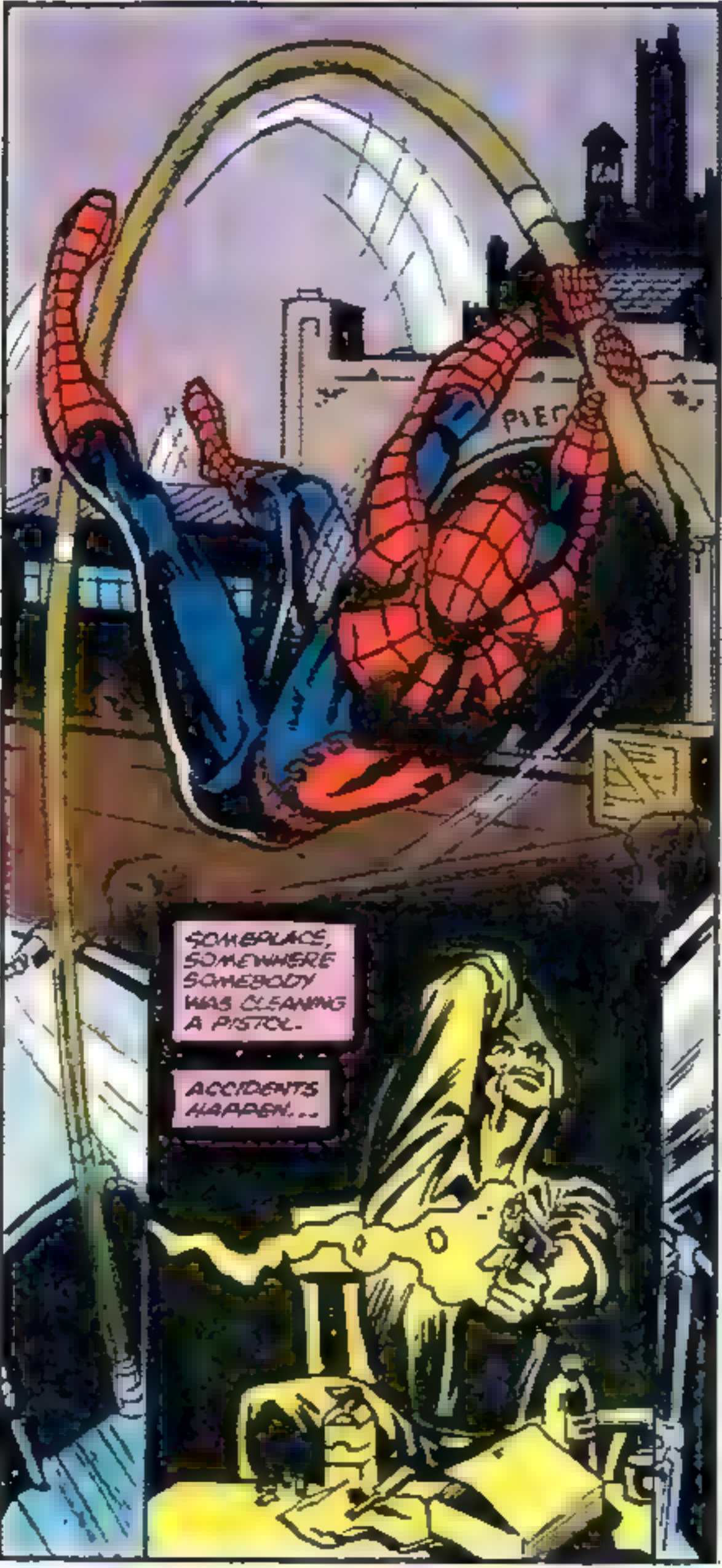
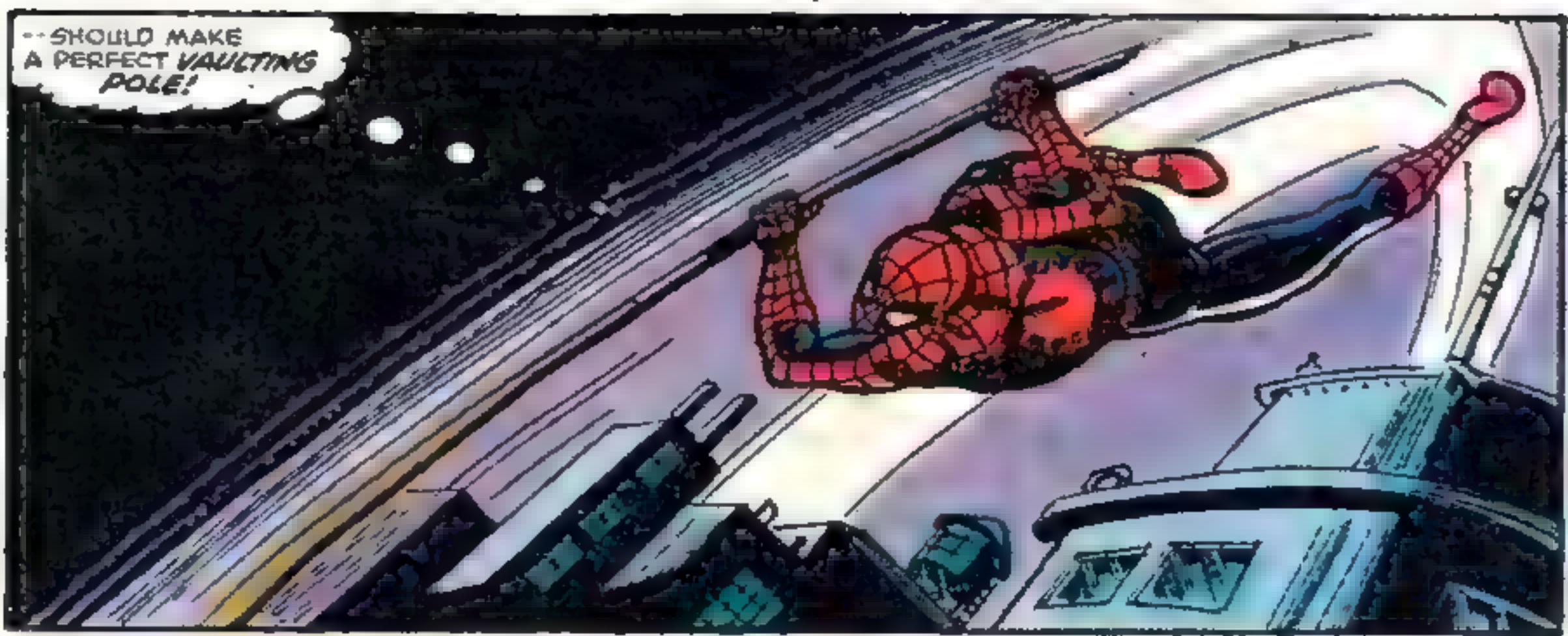




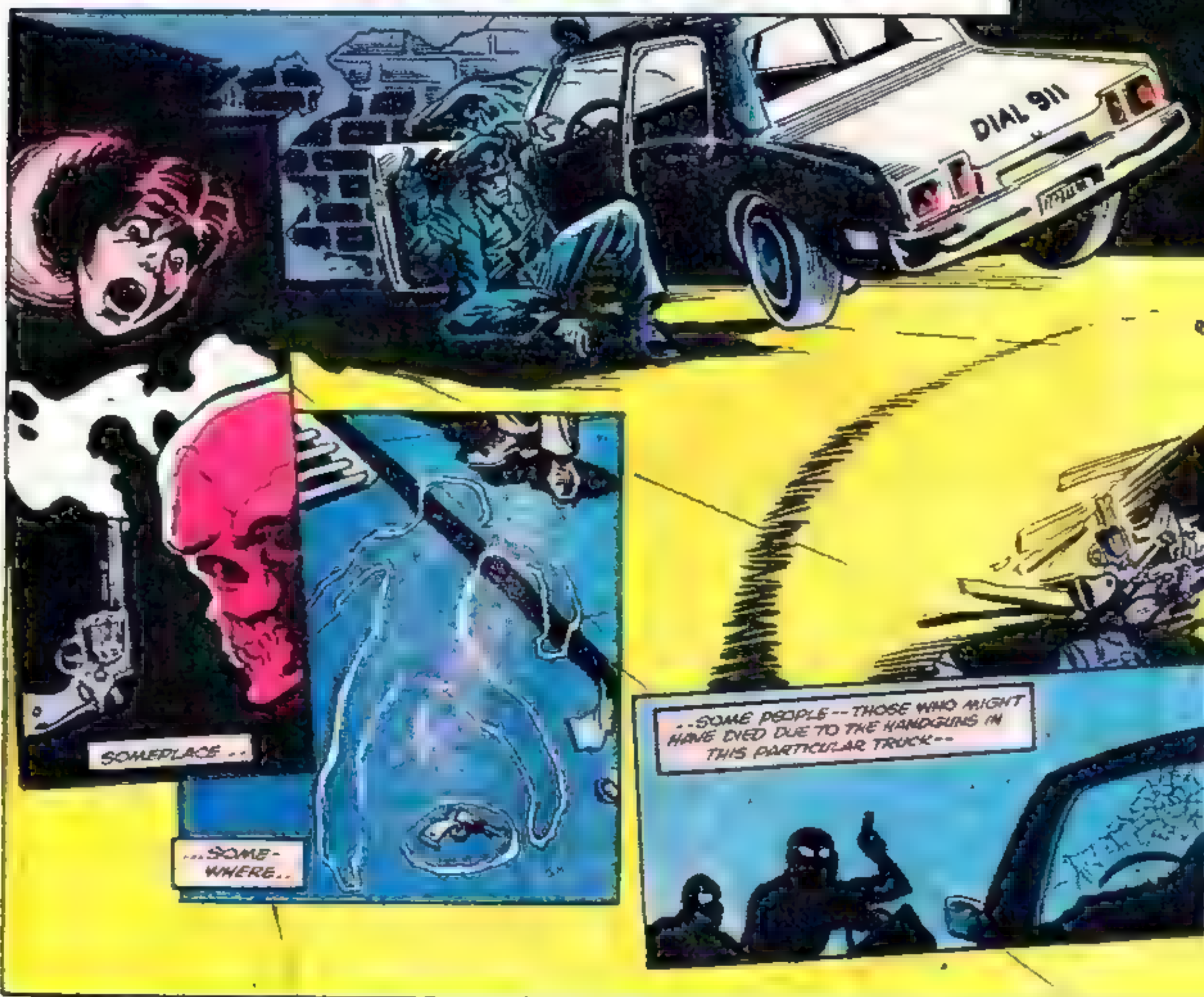
















NOT  
EVER  
AGAIN!

**BWAAVOOM!**

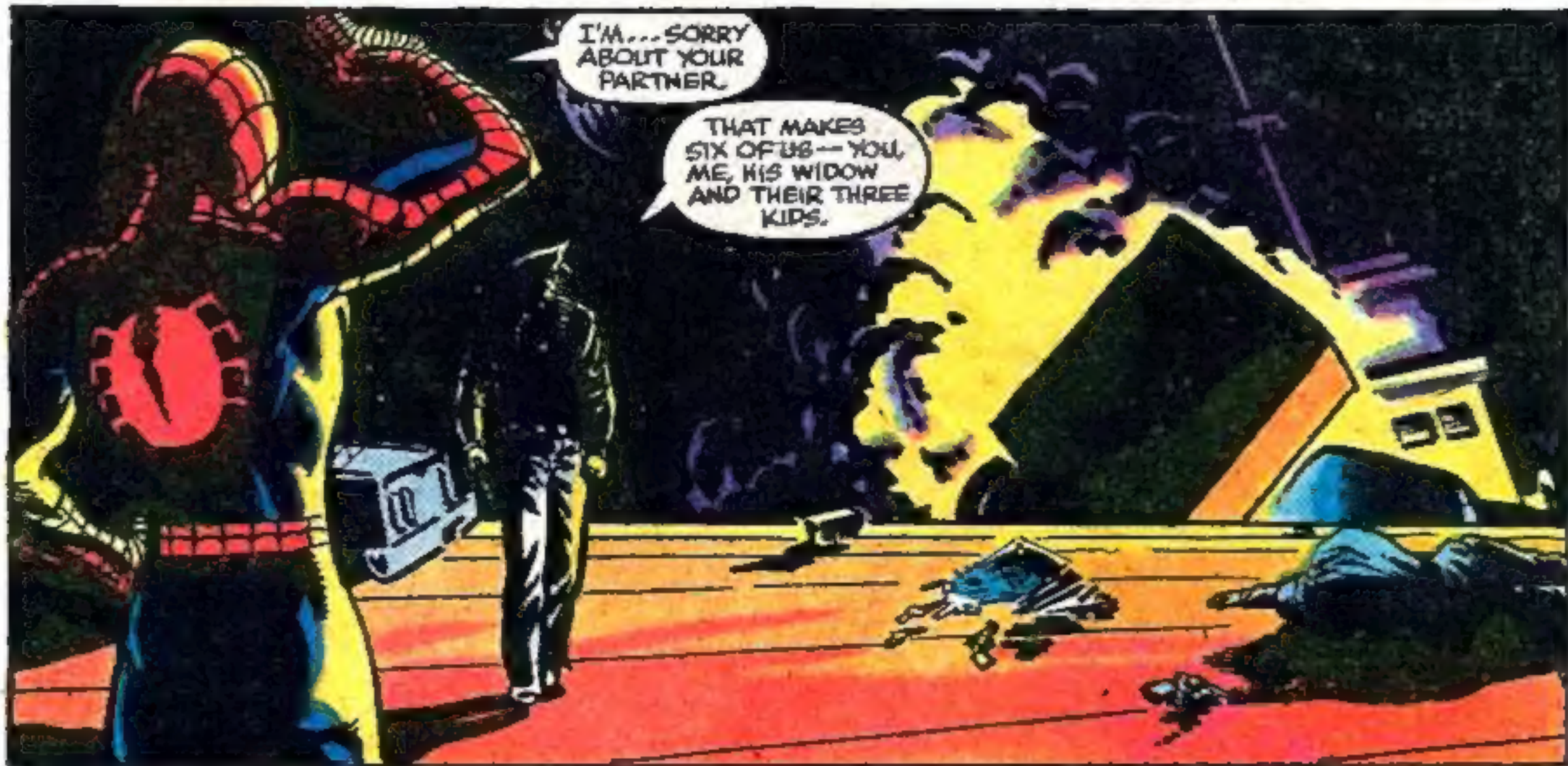
SAY GOODBYE TO  
THE SKY, SCUM.  
THE NEXT TIME  
YOU SEE IT WILL  
BE THROUGH  
BARS.

THEY  
GIVE YOU  
LIFE FOR  
KILLING  
A COP!

THAT  
DOESN'T  
HELP  
O'ROURKE.

—WILL LIVE...  
THANKS TO  
SPIDER-MAN!



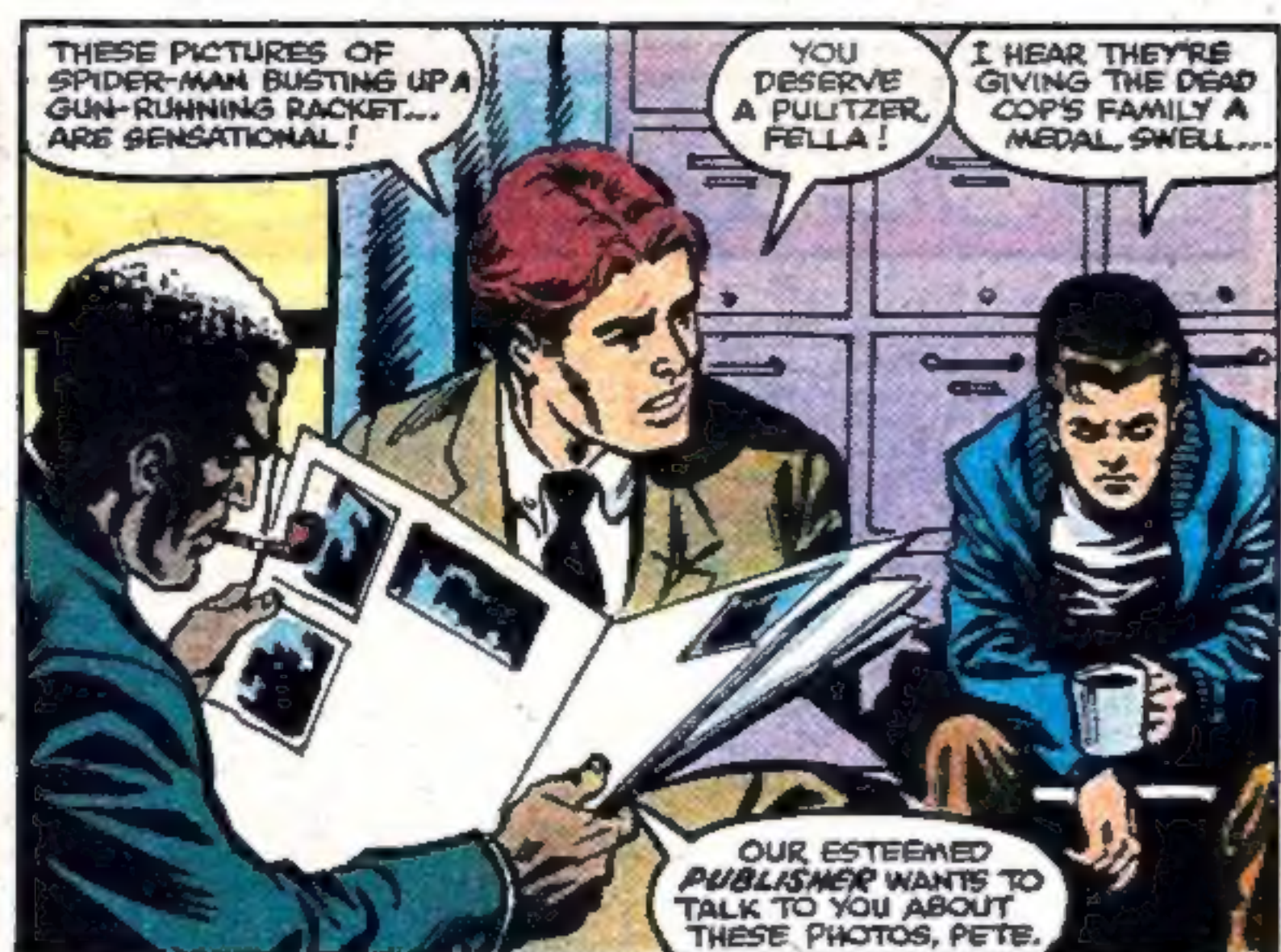






THE NEXT DAY...

HOW'D YOU DO IT, PARKER?



THESE PICTURES OF SPIDER-MAN BUSTING UP A GUN-RUNNING RACKET... ARE SENSATIONAL!

YOU DESERVE A PULITZER, FELLA!

I HEAR THEY'RE GIVING THE DEAD COP'S FAMILY A MEDAL, SWELL...

OUR ESTEEMED PUBLISHER WANTS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THESE PHOTOS, PETE.



DING-BLASTED RIGHT, I DO!



THESE PICTURES PARKER TOOK ARE TERRIFIC!

NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT!

BUT THE STORY THEY TELL ISN'T OVER -- NOT BY A LONG SHOT!



WHILE THE POLICE--DESPITE SPIDER-MAN'S INTERFERENCE--WERE STOPPING ONE GUN-SMUGGLING OPERATION IN BROOKLYN--

-- 12 MORE HANDGUN SHOOTINGS TOOK PLACE IN NEW YORK CITY ALONE!

AND WE HAVE ONE OF THE TOUGHEST GUN CONTROL LAWS IN THE COUNTRY!



WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

CAN ANYONE TELL ME? ANYONE?

THE END.



Dear Editor,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #65 proved that Kraven the Hunter is coming to grips with reality. He now acknowledges that Spider-Man is a very formidable opponent. He's also basing his "hunts" on honor, a rather more elusive prey than revenge.

I was pleased with the all-out action rendering, but I was even more gratified to see that Pete Parker finally got to spend a quiet night with a friendly lady. He deserves it.

Ruffin Prevost  
416 Country Club Drive  
Hazelwood, NC 28738

He certainly does, Ruffin.

Dear Tom,

"The Heart is a Lonely Hunter" was cleverly written, and brought out what sets Kraven the Hunter apart from the typical villain. Kraven doesn't seek great riches or to rule the world; he's only trying to more fully realize himself as "the world's greatest hunter." Kraven desires to emerge from battle victorious, but he would rather lose than win by cheating.

The art by Bob Hall and Jim Mooney was great, visually complementing the story, especially when the city really became a jungle to Spider-Man. Thanks to some hallucinogenic venom, Spidey was almost squeezed to death by a flagpole boa constrictor, while a hideous streetlight shone down like some fiendish jungle moon. Jeppers, creepers, where did it get those peepers...er, bulbs?

Rod Wankowske  
2307 Braidwood Road  
Emmett, MI 48022

I'll give you a hint, Rod, it wasn't the local Five And Dime!

Dear Tom,

I've been sort of a "camp follower" of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN since way back to issue #1! I've read PPTSS regularly, but always preferred what I called "the original" (your sister-strip, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN). But no longer.

"The Heart is a Lonely Hunter" seemed a bit stale for a title, but it surely fit the story. Kraven's search for love and honor added an unknown depth and majesty to this heretofore one-dimensional character. Because of his previous characterization, I dreaded picking up this issue—now I can't wait to see his next appearance in these pages. Kraven now stands as a latter-day Jungle Lord out for the thrill of the Ultimate Stalk (unfortunately, our Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man) with enough knowledge of man's civilization to make the transition from jungle to city. Plus, he's shown that he's capable of helping Spidey out of a jam. Let's see more of this, please!

Poor Petey doesn't seem to realize that most of his problems stem from his inability to open up and confide in someone. I'd sure like to see Peter work harder on his schoolwork. May Parker's favorite nephew has an incredible mind for science, particularly biochemistry and biophysics). He could be-

come one of the Marvel Universe's scientific giants, up there with Tony Stark, Hank Pym and Bruce Banner.

J. D. Long  
311-68-8198  
Meddax Box 1314  
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473

He probably could, J. D.

Gentlemen,

Thank you for trying.

Spidey fights an interesting, though somewhat humdrum, battle with Kraven the Hunter. I'd wondered why Kraven wasn't used much anymore, and this issue stopped my wondering. Unlike Doc Ock and Electro, there are only about two ways in which you can use Kraven—set the fight in his jungle, or in our 'concrete' jungle. After a few go 'rounds, both get boring.

The most important thing about this ish wasn't the battle, however. It was the suggestion that Peter Parker's going to try to straighten out his schizoid life. Now that isn't boring!

Mike Sopp  
438 W 32  
Erie, PA 16508

No, Mike, it isn't.

Dear Tom,

PPTSS #65 presented a good story that was ruined by disappointing artwork. Why did Bob Hall divide each page into so gosh-darn many panels? Spidey was reduced to a mere speck on most. I've noticed an epidemic of Panelmania in several recent Marvel titles, including this one. Folks, Spidey needs some ROOM to do all those spectacular stunts. Lately he appears to be running for his life from all those balloons and captions that are dominating the diminutive titles.

Bob Hall is a good artist, otherwise you wouldn't have him in the Bullpen. If we are to see and appreciate the Hall style (I almost said, the "Hall mark") he must draw visible characters. I'm tired of having to read my comic mags through a microscope! The writers (listening, Bill?) can help matters by reducing either the amount of plot or the amount of dialogue from filibuster level down to a snappy line or two. Please—less talk, more ACTION! Isn't that the Marvel way?

A sweet ending note: The close-up of Kraven on page 16 reminded me of Ditko's version. Let's see more detail!

Dan Skantar  
108 Bessemer Avenue  
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

Dear Marvel People,

I greatly enjoyed SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #65. Bob Hall's art was a pleasant surprise. Kraven was handled

vastly better here than in his last appearance in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #209.

Glen Goldfin  
2 Brookville Drive  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN is one of my favorite Marvel mags, sharing the "very favorite" title only with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. At first I thought that PPTSS #65 would be a disappointment because I don't really like Kraven the Hunter. But was I ever wrong! It was great!

David Reitzes  
1012 Weldin Circle  
Wilmington, DE 19803

Dear People,

PPTSS #65 was a very enjoyable issue for me, and I'll tell you why in one word: Kraven. This particular Lord of the Jungle has had his ups and downs in terms of characterization. He's never seemed to be very consistent throughout his many appearances, nor was he especially true to his own chosen goal: That of being a hunter, the very best hunter. Yet his past few appearances, and this latest encounter with Spidey, have strengthened his persona more than on any previous occasion. We had gathered before that he was a man of honor, but we'd never seen just how strongly it affected his motivations. Kudos to Mr. Mantio for opening Kraven up to us.

Thanks for listening, and thanks for being.

Lynn Savage  
118 Franklin Street  
Bristol, R.I. 02809

Thank you, Lynn.

Dear Editor,

SUBJECT: PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #65  
GRADE

- (1) Cover—Bob Layton brought the skill he's so awesomely displayed on IRON MAN here to PPTSS + 10 points
- (2) Cover—No silly dialogue marring Bob's art + 10 points
- (3) Interior Art—Unstable, but excellent in places + 8 points
- (4) Story—Reminiscent of Lee/ Ditko Spider-Man tales, but not a direct copy + 8 points
- (5) Started Spidey's Twentieth Anniversary off nice + 10 points
- (6) Senseless fist-fights kept to a sensible minimum + 9 points
- (7) Peter Parker's problems return, and are intelligently handled + 10 points
- (8) Incisive insight into Calypso's self-centeredness + 10 points
- (9) Expert motivational and characterizational handling of Kraven + 12 points

FINAL GRADE: 85%

You ought to be proud, but there is still room for improvement. However, no apples will be accepted.

Michael Stark  
96-09 67th Avenue  
Queens, NY 11374

We'll try harder, teach!

